

August 14, 2019

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I certainly hope all of our new and returning Santa Teresa students had a fantastic first day. There's nothing quite like the excitement of the start of a new school year.

Here at Santa Teresa it is our goal to cultivate socially and academically resilient students that reach their potential daily. Our tremendous staff is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students, and continuously collaborate to improve their practice. We value the support we receive from the Santa Teresa community, and thank you for any time you have to volunteer during your busy lives.

Beyond welcoming you to the new school year, the purpose of this letter is to give you important information that will be useful in understanding a bit more about Santa Teresa. If you have any questions regarding the following topics, feel free to call the school or contact me directly.

CLASSES: Please understand that there is a real possibility that the teacher your child had today may not end up being a permanent placement. Class placements and configurations may change due to official enrollment numbers. We appreciate your support and understanding of potential changes during these first few weeks.

WEBSITE: Please take a moment to check out our website, santateresa.ogsd.net. It will be updated regularly with the latest information about what's happening at school. **We highly recommend that you view and download the calendar, located in the middle of the page.** If you click on "show calendar" you will get a more detailed view of upcoming events and be able to subscribe to our calendar. This will allow for the information to be downloaded to your computer or phone.

THE PAW PRINT: *The Paw Print* is our newsletter. It will be sent out monthly. It is an excellent resource to learn about upcoming events and receive important information. Most importantly, it contains an updated calendar that lets you know about important dates and times for the next 4 weeks. The first issue is scheduled to come out on Tuesday, September 3rd. The *Paw Print* will also be posted at santateresa.ogsd.net under "newsletters."

FREE AND REDUCED ONLINE LUNCH APPLICATION: We are pleased to announce that this application can now be completed online in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It can be found on the homepage of the district website (ogsd.net). Completing the application online will make for a faster processing time. **We are asking that ALL OGSD families complete an application.**

CRITICAL PAPERWORK: Today you received lots of critical paperwork. Please complete the 2 separate emergency cards and a free and reduced lunch application (remember, online is faster). You also received student accident insurance information, school lunch menus, and a white envelope. The teacher's name is intentionally left blank as placements are not yet final. In the coming days you should receive an email asking you to read online the Student Behavior and Parent Information Handbook, Consent for Video/Photography/DVD, Acceptable Use Agreement for use of Internet, and A Pledge for Student Success. Please electronically sign these forms following the directions within the email.

VISITOR PROCEDURES: Any parent visiting ST, other than at drop-off and pick-up, MUST sign in at the front office. Parents should not proceed directly to a classroom under any circumstances. Any item dropped off for student, such as a lunch or homework, will be delivered to classrooms by our staff. If a student comes to school late, that student either will walk independently, or be escorted by our staff, to their classroom. Should a parent want to visit their child for lunch, they must sign their child out from the office and eat off campus or at a location other than where classes are currently eating. If the students are eating in the cafeteria, the visiting parent and their child would be able to eat at a table outside. Visiting parents are not allowed to eat lunch with any student(s) other than their own. Please note that siblings are not allowed on campus during the school day. These policies are for the safety of all students and ensure they have ample table space to eat. Once a parent is finished eating with their child, the student is to be signed back in at the front office.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 5th, at 6:00 PM. The evening will begin in the cafeteria with staff introductions and a brief presentation followed by classroom presentations at 6:30PM and 7:00PM. We hope to see you there.

ADJUSTED DAYS AND CALENDAR INFORMATION: The first 5 days of school (8/14-8/20), all students will be on an adjusted day schedule, with a 1:45PM dismissal for all grade levels. Please note that all Tuesdays are adjusted days, again with a 1:45PM dismissal time. Please note that Monday, September 2nd is Labor Day, and school will be closed. Refer to the school schedule and district calendar, sent home today, for additional details.

TRAFFIC: Because of the number of parents coming at the same time, we will need to be extra cautious with our driving habits before and after school. Please remember that the red lines (front of school) are not for drop offs or pick-ups. These are fire lanes. We put up cones for visual reminders. Traffic officers will enforce from time to time. We do appreciate everyone following the safety rules. Additionally, the side parking lot near our CDC is our bus drop off location, with approximately 10-12 busses dropping off students each morning. We are able to use the Blossom Valley Bible Church parking lot on Purple Hills Drive or street parking on Encinal Drive, should you need a parking spot to walk your child in for line up. Thank you to everyone in advance, for helping maintain safety in the neighborhood at drop off time. Please watch for students in both the front and back parking areas, slow down (particularly at cross walks), and error with caution.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS): This year we will continue to implement our PBIS plan. PBIS focuses on rewarding students for demonstrating positive behavior. Students will also receive explicit instruction and modeling on behavioral expectations in 10 key locations throughout Santa Teresa. Our mantra, which you'll see throughout the school is: Santa Teresa Panthers – Always Respectful, Always Safe, and Always Responsible. Please read the PBIS Santa Teresa brochure that was sent home today for more details.

Thanks for reading. I look forward to a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Mark Lepori
Santa Teresa Elementary School Principal